A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, February 10. 1709.

WE are now enquiring, what Evidence of Guilt was obtain'd against the Persons apprehended in *Scotland*, and consequently why they were apprehended—— While those Gentlemen were in Custody, I took the Freedom to examine into, and shew the Reasonableness of a Government being empower'd in Cases of such imminent Danger, to take up and secure the Persons, of all such whom they have any Reason to suspect——— And tho' the Speech hints, that we shall be more careful of the *Habeas Corpus* Bill for the future; yet I must say, her Majesty by the Laws of *Scotland* might have done all that was done, tho' the Act of Parliament here for suspending the said *Habeas Corpus* Act, so far as related to that Case, had not pass'd——The very *Habeas Corpus* Act in *Scotland* having this Exception in it, *in Case of imminent Danger of Invasion*, which I think, no Body will say, was not the very Case here.

It remains then only to enquire, whether the Persons apprehended were not such, as either being profess'd *Jacobites*, or profess'd *Papists*, or profess'd Opposers of the Union, the Queen might think, ought to be secur'd on such an Occasion; I do not say any thing to Prejudice of particular Persons, nor do I design it, nor is there Occasion for it—— If the Gentlemen taken up were to turn the Tables, and the Turn their own, they would have done the same; and having frequent Occasion to converse with some of them, while they were in Custody, they would

would very honourably own it——— As the Danger then declin'd, and no Evidence of Perſonal Guilt appearing, theſe Gentlemen were diſcharg'd, ſome upon Bail, ſome upon Parol———And now the Complainers would raiſe a Duſt at the Affair two Ways, and by two Sorts of People.

One Sort will have it, that unleſs there had been Proof, they ſhould not have been taken up at all; which is contrary to Reaſon and the known Practice in all Nations.

Another Sort will have it be, that becauſe they were taken up, and are let go again, therefore the Government has not done their Duty in ſufficiently diſcouraging Invaders.

Now, 'tis an Enquiry may yet be made, whether there was ſufficient Evidence to convict them or no? I mean thoſe who were try'd, *which ſome ſay there was*, and that the Queen had not Juſtice done her, which, if true, deſerves a very ſmart Enquiry; and let my Lord *C....* anſwer it; I leave that for the preſent, and take Notice only of this, which might in ſome Meaſure anſwer the Caſe.

The Invaſion was an abortive Project, it foundred at Sea; as we ſay of a Ship that is overſet or ſunk, ſo the Project was overſet and ſunk, and the Mine blew up, before it could take Effect; and the *French* were ſo far in the right not to land at all, ſince they could not land at the Place expected; for now, as they themſelves boaſt, their Friends are not diſcover'd, and the Deſign, ſay the *Jacobites*, keeps cold.

It is true, that we are the more in the dark as to legal Proſecution, but not at all in the dark as to probable and rational Conjecture; the People are known, tho' their overt Acts do not yet appear: Tho' the Encouragement they have yet met with has not made them ſhow themſelves enough to have the Law take hold of them, yet they are ſufficiently known to have the Government keep a watchful Eye over them, and be always ready to ſecure them upon every Allarm.

It is true alſo, that their Baffling the Law laſt time, makes their Party unſufferably inſolent, and their riotous and tumultuous Treatment of the Magiſtrates, Miniſters, and People of *Scotland* in the Affair of the Church, eſpecially in the *North* of *Scotland*, deſerves very well the Correction of the Government, and I doubt not in Time will have it——— I make no queſtion, but firſt or laſt, theſe unpeaceable People will nooſe themſelves, and the Law may lay its Iron Hands upon ſome of them by Way of Example; nor will the Government be always in a Condition to be bully'd and inſulted by a Party of Men, who pretend in the Face of Authority to eſpouſe a Foreign and Popiſh Pretender.

I do not therefore ſee ſo much evil Conſequence attending the Inſults and Rabbles of the *Jacobite* Party in *Scotland*; *let them go on*, they will certainly ruin themſelves, and ſome time or other the Government will meet with them; they'll run their Cauſe out of Breath, and then they will ſink under the Weight of their own Raſhneſs——— All ſuch Things end ſo, Party-Madneſs has ſhewn it ſelf always very happy in this, that it always did, as it ever will, overthrow it ſelf.

But if you will enquire into the Danger of an Invaſion, and the Encouragement the *French* have to make ſuch another Attempt upon us, the Danger lies among our ſelves; the Heats, the Diviſions of Parties in *Britain*, and above all, the pretended Uneaſineſſes between the Nations, are our Danger, and the Enemies Encouragement; theſe are daily and diligently improv'd, and run up to a Height next to Madneſs by the *Jacobite* Intereſt in both Kingdoms, and by a Noſe-led Party among us, who chime in with the exploded Principles of Tyranny and Paſſive Obedience, that ſuffer the Raillery of the *Jacobites* with Delight, only becauſe 'tis againſt thoſe that cannot comply with their Extremes. From hence our *High Church* Men are grown ſo ſtupid, as to call ſuppreſſing *Jacobitiſm* by the Sham-Name of perſecuting *Epiſcopacy*, to the Scandal of their own Principles; as if *Jacobitiſm* and *Epiſcopacy* were ſynonymous, as if the *High-Church* and the *Jacobite* were all of a Claſs, and to proſecute one, were to proſecute the other. This is ſo incongruous,

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and such Self-contradicting Stuff, that I wonder at our Church Men in *England*, especially our Clergy, that they can be so partial, that whereas they do not suffer a *Non-Juror* to show his Head in their Church, neither to enjoy a Benefice, or come into a Pulpit; and the very Author of the *Rehearsal* has laid aside his Gown and Cassock, and appears in a Lay-Habit; that these Gentlemen can call that Persecution in *Scotland*, which is only legally Deposing in *England*.

These are those wretched Sons of *I know not what Church*, neither ought any Church to own them, who profess themselves to espouse the *Jacobite* Interest, and openly appear for King *James* VIII. and yet to secure their Livings, and to preserve an Opportunity of debauching the poor abus'd People of this Nation; Take all the Oaths to the present Establishment, that the Government can invent, *Association*, *Abjuration*, 'tis all one, *they'll swear any thing*, and I doubt, they that swear any thing, *will do any thing*. These are the infamous Wretches, of whom, as I said formerly, I know not what Name to give them; a *Non-Juran't Jacobite*, a *Papist*, a *Frenchify'd* Anti-Revolutioner, is an honest Man compar'd to *them*; he is an open, fair, and honourable Enemy, and we are told by such what to expect from him; but the other is a Viper nourish'd in our Bosom, a Traytor in the Castle, a Mine under our Fortifications; and from such is this Nations Danger at this Time.

How many such as these we have now among our Clergy in *England*, is but too plain to need an Enquiry, tho' some pretend, we must take no Notice of them for Fear of the Church; but 'tis the Safety of the Church to detect them, they are the real Enemies of the Church, they have all along made it their Business to harangue the Gentry and People of *England* into Jealousies of the Queen's Fidelity to the Church, into Notions of the Bishops betraying their Trust, and the Church being in Danger, *&c.* How many of these Sons of the Altar have we now in *England*, who under all the solemn Bonds of Oaths and Abjurations are yet spreading the Poison of *Jacobitism* over this Nation, which joyn'd to their scandalous Lives and open Immoralities, makes them a most contemptibe Generation, and like the Sons of *Eli*, *make Men abhor the Offering of the Lord?*

Nor am I concern'd at the Endeavours of a most scandalous Writer, who regards neither Justice or Truth in his stiling me an Enemy of the Church in this; I profess my self an Abhorrer of these Practices, and hope I shall ever be so, let them be in what Church they will, and I think, he is a Friend, not an Enemy, to the Church of *England*, that detects the scandalous Behaviour of these Priests, that the Governors of the Church may be rouz'd to revive and restore a true Christian Discipline, and remove the scandalous and incorrigible out of the way; which would be the happiest Day the Church of *England* ever saw.

And therefore after all his Flourishes, and after all his Certificates, that he pretends to bring against a Story lately told of one of these Wretches, and how far he thinks fit to rake in this *Church-Lay-Stall*, he best knows——But before I can have any Return to the just Enquiry, I have made for the farther Particulars of the Story, let it be at *Durham* or where else it will, I undertake to bring forty Witnesses, if there is Occasion, that the very Man, this Story is told of, is a known, publick, shameless Blasphemer and Buffoon, to whom that wretched Execration of G——d d—mn him, *the Shame and particular Scandal of this Nation, for none other in the World uses it*, is familiar and common; and if this is not true, his general Character, even among Church as well Dissenter, is not true, and it would be difficult to converse in the Town he lives in, and not hear something of it—If it be a Disservice to the Church to detect such a Man, I am sorry for it. As to the scandalous Lives and abominable Practises of some of the rest of the same Cloth, in or near the Cathedral he names, since he extorts them, by affirming it is the best regulated in *England*; and since more Truth must be told to confirm the Truth already told, they shall see, it has not been hitherto restrain'd for Want of Matters of Fact——And tho' there is no doubt, this Railer will procure one Clergyman to vouch for another all

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